

# NETWORK



A publication of Tempe Community Council.  
Connecting those in need with those who care.

FALL 2005

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## Event Spotlight:

*“Tooling up for the Holidays”*

*Coming soon...*



*Happy shoppers select just the right holiday decorations at the Tempe Ace Hardware “Tooling up for the Holidays” fundraiser for Open Horizons Child and Family Development Center.*

Enjoy the spirit of the season as you browse the aisles of Tempe Ace Hardware in search of unique gifts and holiday decorations.

*read more on page 7...*

## HOW ARE WE DOING? — HOW DO WE KNOW?—

We all like to know how we are doing, personally and as members of various groups. However, rarely are we objective about assessing ourselves, our close associates or even our own communities. Sometimes out of modesty we underestimate our achievements or, perhaps more often, we inflate our successes. It’s useful, therefore, to have objective measures of how we are doing.



Indicators allow us to observe trends over time—to determine if a situation is getting better or worse. They provide evidence that a certain condition exists or certain results have or have not been achieved. In some cases, determining how well we are doing is relatively straight forward. For instance, the amount of money available to pay bills is a crucial and knowable personal indicator. The Dow Jones Index gives us a daily number on the ups and downs of the stock market. However, questions of how we are doing socially become more complicated.

Surprisingly, although other democracies (e.g. Canada and Australia) have developed key national indicator systems, the United States has not yet done so. Instead, the U.S. has a myriad of specialized indicators—relating to children and families, aging, economics, health, etc. Indicators are also measured at various levels from the nation as a whole to states, counties and towns.

Indicators are only useful if: 1.) **The indicator is measurable.** Quantitative indicators tend to be the most useful and

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understandable to decision-makers; although qualitative information is sometimes all that is available.

**2.) Data are available and defined in the same way over time.** Information is scarce on some social conditions of importance. For example, the number of homeless individuals in a given area is usually an estimate and not “hard” fact. Additionally, data must be defined the same way over time to draw conclusions about a policy or program. If one is measuring teen pregnancy rates over time, for example, the population counted must be consistent (e.g. ages 12 to 18).

**3.) There is consensus on importance.** The indicator should provide sufficient information about a result to satisfy both supporters and critics. Additionally, groups who agree among themselves on goals may well disagree on which indicators are most important (e.g. for those interested in teen parenting, is “number of births to teen mothers” more, less or equally important as, say “teen parent dropout rates.”)

*[Indicators] help civic leaders clarify key issues and challenges, or prioritize spending when budgets are tight. Indicators can point a community towards specific initiatives or policy changes that will have a real effect on quality of life.*

*From The Community Indicators Handbook*

### Coordinating Efforts

The National Association of Planning Councils (NAPC) has launched a social indicators project to help coordinate and promote the use of social indicators. In addition to hosting periodic conferences, NAPC is developing three sets of indicators. They are: Deprivation Index (factors impacting health status), Child Well-being Index and Leading Health and Social Indicators. The indicators currently compare and rank the 100 largest metropolitan areas against some of the indicators, including parts of the Phoenix area.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has made notable progress with social indicators through its *Kids Count* project that regularly publishes a consistent list of indicators on a national and state level with

some local data also available. Several indicators are tracked, including the 10 key indicators of child well-being shown below. Sadly, Arizona ranks 41st among the states in overall child well-being.

#### 10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being

Percent low birth-weight babies
Infant mortality rate
Child death rate
Rate of teen deaths rate by accident, homicide, and suicide
Teen birth rate
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts
Percent of teens not attending school and not working
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment
Percent of children in poverty
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent

### Composite Indicators

The idea of combining several indicators into one number is an attractive one. The S&P 500 Index does that for selected stocks and the whole world pays attention. However, putting social indicators together is much more complex. Many are of a negative nature so when they go up, it's bad (e.g.

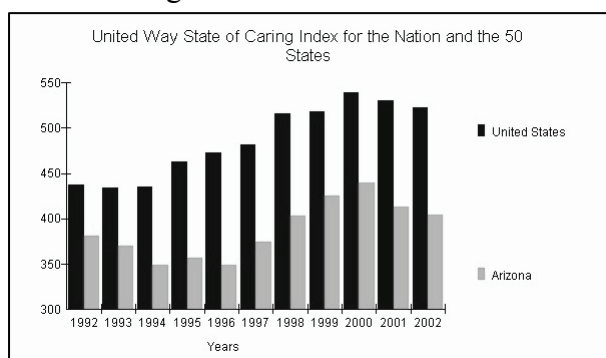
poverty numbers). Some are positive in nature, such as graduation rates where an increase is perceived as good. United Way of America has made a pioneering effort to produce a composite indicator with its *UW State of Caring Index* that includes 36 indicators covering 1992-2002 from these areas: economic and financial well being (e.g. median income), education (e.g. high school dropouts), health (e.g. teen birth rate), volunteerism/charity/civic engagement (e.g. number of volunteer



*For additional information about social indicators, go to [www.socialindicators.com](http://www.socialindicators.com), [national.unitedway.org/state of caring](http://national.unitedway.org/state_of_caring) and [www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp)*

## HOW ARE WE DOING? — HOW DO WE KNOW?—

hours), safety (e.g., crime rates), natural environment and other factors (e.g. recycling amounts). Through a complex weighting scheme, a single number is expressed. For instance, the chart below compares Arizona to the U.S. over that 10 – year period. The higher the UW number, the better; for instance in 2002 the U.S. number as a whole is 523 and the Arizona number is 404, 49th in rank among the states.



As commendable as the effort is, there are a number of issues apparent with the UW index. Where an indicator is not available at the state level, the national indicator is inserted instead. Also, the UW indicator is not available below the state level.

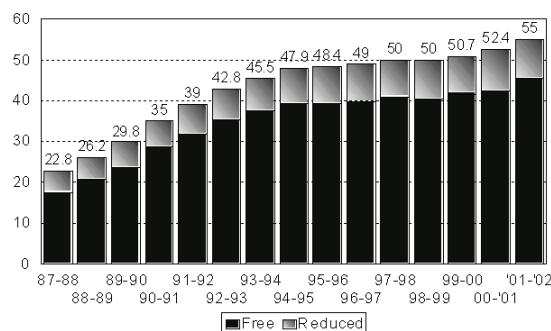
### *What works for Tempe?*

While the state as a whole tends to fare poorly on most social indicators that are measured, how are we doing here in Tempe? Most of us feel pretty good about the community in which we live, but we know there are areas of need and are things we could do to improve the health and vitality of the entire community.

Tempe has yet to create a consensus set of social indicators for our community. Data have been collected, however, in a number of areas and could be useful in the development of community indicators

for Tempe. In addition to a host of Census figures available in TCC's People Improvement Plan and task force reports (on homeless, aging and disabilities), Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools Director Lynette Stonefeld has compiled statistics in "The State of Tempe's Children" reports. The most recent report was issued in 2003 as part of the Communities for Kids Round Table Forums. This report includes such information as the percent of students on free and reduced lunch in Tempe Elementary School District #3 (see table below), as well as poverty and diversity statistics.

Percent of Students on Free and Reduced Lunch  
Tempe Elementary Schools



Ultimately, if we know how we are doing, whether as a nation, state, city or even as individuals, we should be prepared to accept the results (both the positive and the negative) and take steps to make improvements. As stated in the *Community Indicators Handbook*, "indicators can help civic leaders clarify key issues and challenges, or prioritize spending when budgets are tight. They can point a community toward specific initiatives or policy changes that will have a real effect on quality of life." It's good to know how we're doing and if what we're doing is creating an even better Tempe.

## BOTTOM LINE

President George Washington, in his first annual message to Congress on January 8, 1790 said, "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness." Clearly, in a democracy it's important to know the state of our nation and our communities. Objective information, however, can also be unsettling when the news is not what we might have hoped. Developing a set of indicators that are measured and sustained over many years is a significant undertaking. Are we in Tempe ready and willing to take on this effort and to accept the results to make positive change?

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we approach the end of the year and look back on 2005, I don't think many of us will miss the year that we will soon be leaving behind. Many in our country and world had their lives uprooted through a series of natural disasters that touched all corners of the globe: from the Tsunami in Southeast Asia to hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Pakistani earthquake...not to mention the record-breaking fire season here in Arizona.

Although it may seem cliché, it is no less true to say that how we respond in times of crisis to help our fellow human beings is truly the most important measure of who we are as individuals and as a community. We can be proud of Tempe in this regard. Tempe's strong network of programs and organizations that serve those in need has enabled us to mobilize quickly and effectively to respond to the displaced Katrina victims. TCC quickly formed the *Neighbor-to-Neighbor* volunteer effort to match Tempe volunteers with families to help enroll their children in Tempe schools, become familiar with available resources and programs and, most importantly, feel welcome in our community. Currently, 35 new students from the Gulf Coast region are enrolled in the 3 school districts that serve Tempe.

One of our partner agencies Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA), working in collaboration with Bridging Arizona, a furniture bank, as well as the faith community (through TEAM) and service organizations, has successfully resettled ten families—totaling 26 individuals—in apartments in Tempe. We are grateful to the many who opened their hearts and their homes to help those in need.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Hanley".

Katherine Hanley

### Applying for City of Tempe Human Service Funds is Streamlined Using New Technology

Tempe Community Council (TCC) and The City of Tempe have entered into a collaboration with the Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) to develop an online, web-based process for agencies applying to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Help to Others (H2O), and Tempe General Revenue funds for human service programs. Agencies applying for FY 2006/07 funding were the first to experience the new, online process.

TCC is using e-CFund, a software program developed by Seabrooks and currently used by the

Valley of the Sun United Way. Tempe is the first municipality to collaborate with VSUW to manage its own online application process.

For over twenty years the City of Tempe has entrusted Tempe Community Council with administering the allocation process (known as Agency Review) of more than a million dollars annually to non-profit agencies to address Tempe's most pressing human service needs.

The adoption of this online application has made Tempe's application process more efficient, accessible and outcome-driven. It is hoped that the benefits of transitioning to an online application will be experienced by everyone involved in the process, from the agencies applying for funding to the volunteers reviewing the applications.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS REAP REWARDS



### *Tempe is Named One of 100 Best Communities for Young People*

America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth selected Tempe as a winner of a first-ever national competition to identify *100 Best Communities for Young People*. The winning communities – ranging from small towns to urban neighborhoods across America – were chosen for their commitment to providing healthy, safe and caring environments for young people.

Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools (CIS) Director Lynette Stonefeld prepared the application for a place on this prestigious list. CIS, a project of Tempe Community Council, is a collaboration between the City of Tempe, the three school districts that serve Tempe and numerous businesses and non-profits. The purpose of CIS is to mobilize and connect community resources with schools, and focus public attention on increasing support for positive youth development.

Tempe was selected to receive the *100 Best* honor, in part, because of the strong partnerships developed and nurtured by Lynette Stonefeld through the CIS program, including the Youth Health Center, a free clinic available to students to address the common health needs of children. CIS has also opened nine Family Resource Centers in high-poverty elementary schools so that they can better serve students and their families.

The judges were also impressed with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) that provides youth with a voice in local government, the Kid Zone Enrichment Program, and The Tempe Pappas School for Homeless Children.

America's Promise Founding Chairman General Colin Powell launched the competition in May. Tempe and the other winners were chosen by a distinguished selection panel of civic, business and nonprofit leaders, including United Way of Amer-



ica President Brian Gallagher, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue, former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, baseball great Cal Ripken, Jr. and former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.

The selection panel evaluated *100 Best* entries that required detailed information about each community's efforts to fulfill five essential promises critical to the well-being of young people: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others.

To honor the *100 Best* communities selected, the America's Promise Alliance held a special event November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Washington, D.C. This celebration was dedicated to the children affected by Hurricane Katrina, highlighting outstanding community initiatives across the country that are providing displaced children with the services and support that they need to thrive no matter where they are. Lynette Stonefeld, KAET Ready-to-Learn Coordinator Mary Ann Dillon and Vice Mayor Mark Mitchell represented Tempe at this prestigious event.

*More details about the 100 Best competition and a complete list of winners can be found at [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org).*

## 22ND ANNUAL DON CARLOS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

### ***Dick and Jane Neuheisel are named 2005 Don Carlos Humanitarians of the Year***

Dick and Jane Neuheisel are virtual legends in Tempe for their 35 year labor of love, the Tempe Sister Cities organization. Dick founded the Tempe Sister City Corporation in 1970, while serving on the Tempe City Council. Over the years, hundreds of Tempe students and teachers have built life-long friendships and experienced the world in ways that can only make our community and the world better. Through Sister Cities, the Neuheisels have helped organize such humanitarian projects as purchasing needed wells in Timbuktu and raising money to send desperately needed wheelchairs to Skopje, Macedonia; Zhenjiang, China and Timbuktu, Mali.

Dick and Jane have been very active in the community in a number of ways. Dick has served on the Board of Directors of both the Tempe Boys Club and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tempe, Tempe Elks Lodge, American Legion and is a founding member of the Tempe Diablos. He is

president of the Tempe Sports Authority and created the Gene Autry Courage Awards Program that has raised more than \$1,000,000 for education projects.

Among many other affiliations, Jane has served on the Boards of Directors of the Tempe Arts

Center and Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau and currently serves on the Advisory Board for the East Valley Assistance League. She was named "National Volunteer of the Year" by Sister Cities International in July of this year. Together, Dick and Jane received the coveted "Spirit of Tempe" award from the Tempe Chamber of Commerce in 2001.

Dick and Jane have lived in Tempe since 1963. They have four grown children—Rick, Nancy, Kate and Deborah and nine grandchildren.



*Jane and Dick Neuheisel with children in Zhenjiang, China.*

## 4TH ANNUAL HAYDEN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT AWARD



*Hayden Youth and Young Adult Award Recipient Smitha Ramakrishna*

### ***Corona del Sol Freshman Smitha Ramakrishna receives the 4th Annual Hayden Youth and Young Adult Award.***

As a Don Carlos Humanitarian in the making, Smitha Ramakrishna was presented with the Hayden Youth and Young Adult Award at the Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards Reception, along with a \$500 scholarship from Tempe Schools Credit Union.

Smitha Ramakrishna, age 14, has a resume of accomplishments and leadership that is truly remarkable for someone so young. Currently a freshman at Corona del Sol High School, she is the community service and fundraising chairperson for the Red Cross Club. Smitha founded a "kids chapter" of ASHA Arizona, an organization that helps educate underprivileged children in India. To raise money for this organization, she developed a walk-a-thon at Kiwanis Park to honor Mahatma Gandhi. She also raised money for the Tsunami victims in South-east Asia by providing gift-wrapping services at local bookstores.

Smitha was recently honored as one of only nine young people from the U.S. to be selected as an ambassador to the United Nations Environmental Program's Children's Summit. She presented a speech she wrote for "World Peace Day" about Mahatma Gandhi and his message of avoiding war through understanding different cultures and religions and learning to appreciate our differences.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### ***Annual Tempe Ace Hardware Holiday Event to Raise Money for Open Horizons***

Tempe Ace Hardware will host the **9th Annual "Tooling Up for the Holidays"** event on:

**Tuesday, December 6  
from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
929 E. Broadway Road (Broadway & Rural)  
in Tempe.**

Experience the spirit of giving two-fold when you purchase your holiday gifts and decorations. This is also a great time to stock up on household items, such as light bulbs, batteries and cleaning supplies that you'll use all year long.

Proceeds from items purchased during the evening will benefit Open Horizons Child and Family Development Center. Open Horizons is a child care and dropout prevention program for parenting teens in the Tempe Union High School District.

The event will feature refreshments, dessert, photos with Santa, a silent auction and raffle prizes donated from Tempe Ace Hardware and other local businesses. TCC would like to thank new Tempe Ace Hardware owner Mike Brackin for continuing this holiday tradition.

### ***TEAM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be held at Mission Del Sol Presbyterian***

Tempe Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM) welcomes all to join with them in celebrating Thanksgiving with an interfaith service featuring Tempe's many cultures and faith communities. This is a wonderful way to connect with the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

This service is held annually and is hosted by a different participating congregation on a rotating basis. All collections from the service will go toward providing emergency assistance for Tempe's homeless population. There will also be collection boxes available for donations of non-perishable, canned food items.

The Service will be held:

**Wednesday, November 23  
7:00 p.m.  
Mission Del Sol  
Presbyterian Church,  
1565 E. Warner Rd.  
(McClintock & Warner)  
in Tempe.**



### ***Volunteer Translators Needed for Tempe/Guadalupe Tax Preparation Sites***

Spanish translators are needed to volunteer at various tax preparation sites in Tempe and Guadalupe on evenings and Saturdays from Jan. 21 to April 15, 2006. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), created by congress, returns money from overpayment of taxes to workers with modest incomes. The IRS estimates that there are millions of dollars a year in unclaimed credit in Tempe and Guadalupe.

In response, the Tempe Community Council, the City of Tempe the Town of Guadalupe and the IRS have teamed up with churches, businesses and community members to promote public awareness of the credit and to provide free tax preparation to those eligible. Research shows that the EITC credit helps lift children out of poverty and is a powerful economic development tool for communities.

Spanish translators are needed to translate common, every day terms. Each site has a two page dictionary of specialized tax terms if the need arises. No training is needed. We ask translators to commit to volunteering at least one 4-hour session during tax season.

For more information or to complete a Volunteer Application, go to [www.tempe.gov/tcc/eitc](http://www.tempe.gov/tcc/eitc) and select "Information for Volunteers" or call the EITC Hotline at 480/858-2323.

## FALL 2005 CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 5 TCC Board Meeting**
- 25 TCC Executive Committee Meeting**
- CIS Board Meeting**
- 31 Halloween**
- Grant applications due for City of Tempe Human Services Funds**

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Empty Bowls Meeting**
- 2 TCC Board Meeting**
- Don Carlos Humanitarian Awards**
- 9 TEAM Fall Meeting**
- 11 Veterans Day (TCC Closed)**
- 22 TCC Executive Committee Meeting**
- CIS Board Retreat**
- 23 TEAM Thanksgiving Interfaith Service**
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday (TCC Closed)**
- 29 AR Volunteer Orientation**

### DECEMBER

- 2-4 Tempe Festival of the Arts**
- 6 Ace Hardware "Tooling Up for the Holidays" event**
- 7 TCC Board Meeting**
- 20 CIS Board Meeting**
- 26 Christmas Holiday (TCC Closed)**
- 28 City of Tempe CDBG Capital Proposals Due**

*For confirmation and further details of meetings and events listed above, please call (480) 858-2300*



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